OMB No. 1024-0018

**BDRAFT** 

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**United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property			
historic name Dixon Union High School Library			
other names/site number	to the second se		
2. Location			
street & number 135 East B Street	N/A not for publication		
city or town Dixon	N/A vicinity		
state California code CA county Solano code 095	zip code 95620		
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	A CONTRACT OF THE CONTRACT OF		
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,			
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.			
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:	. I recommend that this property		
national statewidelocal			
· ·			
Signature of certifying official/Title Date			
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government			
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.			
Signature of commenting official Date			
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal	Government		

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Carnegie Library	Solano CA
Name of Property	County and State
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is:	
to the Metional Desister	determined eligible for the National Register
entered in the National Register	determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register	removed from the National Register
other (explain:)	
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property Category of Pro	erty Number of Resources within Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.) (Check only one box.	
	Contributing Noncontributing
private X building	
X public - Local district	district
public - State site	site
public - Federal structur	e structure
object	object
	1Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A	N/A
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions	Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)	(Enter categories from instructions.)
EDUCATION/library	EDUCATION/library
	<u> </u>

NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018	(Expires 5/31/2012)
Carnegie Library Name of Property		Solano CA County and State
7. Description		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)
Late 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Revivals		foundation: CONCRETE
Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival		walls: BRICK
		STUCCO
		roof: WOOD
		other: ASPHALT

### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

(see continuation sheets)

**Narrative Description** 

(see continuation sheets)

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Carnegie Library	Solano CA	
Name of Property	County and State	
8. Statement of Significance		
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)	
for National Register listing.)	EDUCATION	
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	SOCIAL HISTORY	
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.		
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high		
artistic values, or represents a significant	Period of Significance	
and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1911-1913	
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information		
important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates	
	1912	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Circuitic and Danasa	
Property is:	Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)	
A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A	
B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation	
C a birthplace or grave.	N/A	
D a cemetery.		
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder	
F a commemorative property.	Parker and Kenyon, Architects	
	Brady and Fischer, Builders	
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.		

Period of Significance (justification)

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register NPS Form 10-900	of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018
Carnegie Library Name of Property	

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Carnegie Library  Name of Property	Solano CA County and State
Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph applicable criteria.)	(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and
(see continuation sheets)	
	·
Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at	least <b>one</b> paragraph for each area of significance.)
(see continuation sheets)	
1	
Developmental history/additional historic cont	ext information (if appropriate)

(Expires 5/31/2012)

carnegie LibrarySolano CA			
Name of Property County and State			
9. Major Bibliographical References			
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing	ng this form.)		
(see continuation sheet)			
Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:			
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been	State Historic Preservation Office		
requested) previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency Federal agency		
previously determined eligible by the National Register Local government			
designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	University X Other		
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Name of repository: Dixon Public Library Archives		
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #			
Historic Resources Survey Number (if			
assigned):			
10. Geographical Data			
Acreage of Property tenth of an acre	•		
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)			
UTM Defense			
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)			
1 3			
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing		
2 4			
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing		

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The original boundary of the property is a 65' x 60' lot fronting B Street midway between First and Second Streets on Lots 1,2 and 3 of Block 4. The Solano County Assessor's Parcel Number is 115-081-050. The subsequent additions extend onto city land borrowed from the Women's Improvement Park. (See accompanying drawing.)

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Carnegie Library Solano CA ame of Property County and State				
	554119 4.12 54415			
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries v	vere selected.)			
(see continuation sheets for accompanying parce	I map and a description of the metes and bounds record from 1911.)			
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Susan B. Werrin				
organization Dixon Carnegie Library Preservation Society date May 31, 2010				
street & number 300 East B Street telephone 707-678-2914				
city or town Dixon	state CA zip code 95620			
e-mail				
Additional Documentation				
Submit the following items with the completed for	m:			
Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute)	series) indicating the property's location			
A <b>Sketch map</b> for historic districts and pi photographs to this map.	roperties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all			
, , ,				
Continuation Sheets				
Additional items: (Check with the SHP)	O or FPO for any additional items.)			
Photographs:				
or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.	size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch)			
Name of Property:				
City or Vicinity:				
County: State: P	hotographer:			
Date Photographed:				
Description of Photograph(s) and number:				
1 of				
(see continuation sheets for photograph info	armation)			

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Property Owner:

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_

name

city or town

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

state

zip code

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Carnegie Library
Name of Property
Solano, CA
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The Dixon Carnegie Library is an approximately 2300 square-foot rectilinear building designed in a Classical Revival style with Mission/Spanish elements. The structure sits one story above a raised basement on a parcel of land 65' wide by 60' deep. It is centrally located in the downtown commercial district on East B Street between North First and North Second streets adjacent to a well-utilized city park. It was designed by architects Parker and Kenyon from San Francisco and built by the contracting firm of Brady and Fischer also from San Francisco. The size and shape of the building met the required standard formula for libraries built with Carnegie grants. It is constructed of brick with concrete steps and plaster exterior finish coats. The symmetrically positioned design elements are focal points on the facade. Decorative components in the California Mission style were incorporated to blend with the neighboring post office building. Restoration and additions attached to the rear of the Carnegie building were done in 1957, 1989 and 1990. In 1992 the interior of the Carnegie was renovated and painted to look similar to the interiors of the other spaces. The additions are not visible from the entrance façade toward the street and the stucco refinishing does not detract from the original materials.

The library is located near a historic residential district that once housed Dixon citizens that were influential in establishing the Carnegie Library. The library is within walking distance to local schools as well as to downtown business, banking and shops. It retains its historic function as a library facility and social meeting place for the people of the City of Dixon to the present day.

#### **Narrative Description**

The Carnegie Library is located in the historic "old downtown" Dixon. Built in 1912, the Carnegie is designed as a tall single-story above a raised basement masonry building. The partially-sunken basement is six feet above ground level. All walls are two bricks thick mortared into place. Several windows which allowed light to enter the lower level were placed along the front and sides. Below the flat roof and flat parapet is a block modillion cornice a plain frieze and banded architrave. The building's design features on the otherwise plain exterior create a formal appearance that was consistent with civic buildings of the era. The south elevation is punctuated at the mid-point by a recessed entrance with indented pilasters on either side. The entrance is reached by eight broad concrete steps sided with sloping banisters also made of concrete. The globe-light posts attached to the curvilinear ends of the banisters were subsequently removed and used on an adjacent residence.

Above the doorway is a narrow projecting cornice, which repeats the building's main cornice on a smaller scale. Below that is a frieze with the words "Carnegie Library" in sculptured relief letters. A fixed transom light tops the double wooden doors. The original doors were dark wood and multi-paned, as was the transom, and opened inward to the building. The replacement doors have large single panes of clear glass framed in oak, which open to the outside as safety codes deemed it necessary. The entrance is flanked on each side by a quatrefoil window with iron grille work. Midways toward the outer edges of the front elevation are elaborate three-paned windows; the central window being dominant in size to those on either side. Engaged columns with Ionic capitals separate the three single windowpanes that are in the original wood framing and painted white. Topping the window is a semi-circular blind fanlight capped by a keystone and sided with indented panels. Below the window is a full unornamented architrave and deep lug sill. The windows on the east and west side elevations are of the same design. Plaster sconce ornaments are attached near the upper corners of the facade and above the quatrefoil windows. Along the east wall is a 15-foot wide alley separating the library from the adjacent property, and which leads directly to the City Park at the north wall. The west wall shares a narrow service walkway with the adjacent historic post office building and is gated from the street.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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#### Narrative Description (continued)

The entire building was finished with a smooth plaster veneer on the upper two-thirds and cement designed to simulate stone and mortar was applied to the raised basement area when it was newly constructed. A cornerstone testifies as to the date of 1912.

Adorning each side of the entrance facade are hand-cut carrera marble plaques. On the left side are the carved names of the first Library Board of Trustees: J.H. Rice, E. D. Dudley, W.A. Porter, C.E. Clausen, R.J. Currey, R.D Mayes and Mrs. O.C. Schultz commemorating the dedication of the building in 1913. Also carved in are the words, "Gift of Andrew Carnegie." The matching plaque to the right honors the re-dedication ceremony held in 1992 with the names of the committee members listed to complete the symmetrical effect. The basement level entrance is accessed by cement steps perpendicular to and directly under the main stairway.

The interior of the Carnegie has tall built-in bookcases topped with deep crown molding lining the walls between the windows. Square-shaped pilasters are placed equidistant from the outer walls and have painted wood wainscoting. All of the original dark-stained wood trim and paneling have been painted. During updates to the interior lighting, electrical and HVAC equipment, suspended acoustical and fluorescent lighting panels were applied to the ceiling. The original plaster 14-foot ceiling still exists above the panels. In recent years, the wood floorboards have been covered with wall-to-wall carpeting.

At the back wall, a door that opens to a narrow winding staircase leads to the full basement with 10-foot ceilings. The walls are smooth plaster except for the lobby area where the walls are wainscoted to a height of seven feet. The basement level is separated into several rooms which once served as meeting rooms, children's schoolroom, storage closets, and furnace room. Staff work areas and a restroom were also located on the lower level. The original furnace still remains though HVAC units throughout the building have replaced the first oil-burning heating system. Supporting beams and pillars were positioned in the two largest rooms for structural reinforcement in the late 1980's. During earlier renovations the basement windows were boarded and plastered over because of leaks. The sash and frames remain extant in the interior basement walls. Some of the original glass-front bookcases are now used in the basement including some rare and first editions remaining from the earliest days of the library. The basement is presently used for the circulating stored book collection and other general storage. It is no longer accessible to the public.

The library underwent two additions that are attached to the north-facing rear of the building. A shed-roof brick structure completed in 1958 which doubled the existing floor space and added a children's library, and an L-shape extension wing built in 1989 that increased the space for expanded collections, reference and staff office areas. The additions are accessed by a short set of interior steps that lead to ground-floor level from the left side of the Carnegie's rear wall. The children's library room is visible through a large glassed-in wall opening that replaces that portion of the right side rear wall. The two original north wall windows at the back of the building were removed to allow for the extension. The central portion of the back wall contains the door to the basement. Next to it is an enclosed office, which houses the archives collection and projects into the addition dividing the children's and reference areas.

In 1987, the city taxpayers approved Measure L, a five-year parcel tax that provided the funds necessary for reinforcing structural elements in the aging historic Carnegie building. Some of the revenues from this bond were apportioned to pay for the upgrading and modernization of internal systems as well as creating the new wing and exterior beautification. During renovation in 1990, the whole exterior was re-stuccoed and painted in taupe and beige with white wood trim and rust-red accents. The front of the building was landscaped with grass and shrubbery.

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Carnegie Library
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#### Narrative Description (continued)

Along with the 1990 addition, the library's main entrance was changed to convey street level access and the address became 230 North First Street. When the improvements using Measure L funds were first proposed, the plan was to add ramps for the disabled to the B Street Carnegie entrance and to make the basement again usable. Instead, the City of Dixon granted a portion of the Women's Improvement Club Park with the understanding that it would revert back to the park should the district ever decide to remove the addition. Since the additions are connected to the north elevation at the rear of the building, they are not visible from the original face of the Carnegie. The line of sight to the newer part is broken by the commercial building next to it. The original character of the building remains identifiable by its present façade as the look and feel of the building's historic association is retained.

The alley along the east wall of the building is accessible to the public and leads to the back of the children's library and to the Women's Improvement Club Park beyond it.

The park is landscaped with mature trees, lawn and walkways. Prominently located on the North First Street side of the park is a sign with the words "Women's Improvement Club Park," a flagpole and statuary. Opening out from the glass wall and exit doors on the rear of the children's library is a large patio that can be accessed for enjoying special programming and library events during warm weather.

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Carnegie Library
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#### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Dixon Carnegie Library has supported the community's need for library services since 1912. Located in historic downtown Dixon, the Carnegie Library has contributed significantly to the development of cultural advancement for Dixon and the neighboring vicinities. It is being nominated for the National Register under Criteria A as it has been pivotal to the progression of education and culture in the social history of Dixon. Not only was it the first building in the area dedicated for the purpose of free public library use, it was also the first library built using Carnegie grant money in Solano County.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance and Historical Context

Settled in 1868, Dixon was first known as Dicksonville. It was named for Thomas Dickson who donated an acre of land for the proposed train station. Dixon had no real center of market activity until the Southern Pacific Railroad decided to extend their railway system. When the railroad came through, it was economically advantageous for the citizens to change the town's boundaries. The townspeople relocated several buildings by rolling them on logs bringing them closer to the new train station. Due to a stationmaster's misspelling, Dicksonville became The City of Dixon.

At the time, trade was based upon agriculture and ranching, primarily sheep and dairy cattle. With the advent of the railroad, many transient workers were hired and brought in to lay the tracks. Enterprising shopkeepers realized that they could profit by providing hotel accommodations and entertainment to the mostly young male rail workers. Eventually the downtown became blighted with saloons, bordellos and gambling halls. Public displays of drunkenness and fist fighting made it difficult for the townspeople and merchants to conduct normal day-to-day business. Before long, the citizens became concerned and took measures to "clean up" the downtown district.

As the population of Solano County's townships grew, the need for a connection with civilized society became more important. The literary and cultural needs of urbanized cities could be satisfied with grand municipal library buildings run by professional librarians. The rural citizens of Solano County however, received only sporadic visits by horse-drawn travelling libraries, which could not sufficiently serve the diverse population. In more settled vicinities, an available alternative might be a "reading room" set up in a storefront or in a private residence that could be used during specified hours. Although shortlived, The Dixon Reading Club was one such alternative.

In 1899, a woman's group in Dixon known as the Shakespearean Club traveled to nearby settlements giving lectures and performing plays and recitals. Their aim was to entertain as well as to culturally enlighten their audiences. In 1903 the group changed their name and became The Women's Improvement Club of Dixon whose focus was promoting the betterment of their community. During the early years of the twentieth century, women's groups and clubs across our nation were instrumental in helping to broaden school curricula and in raising awareness about the importance of having local museums and libraries.

The longing to obtain a building for the purpose of a library became a growing concern for Dixon citizens. Beginning in 1898, the philanthropic program administered through the Carnegie Corporation in New York City made it possible for cities and towns desiring a library to apply for a grant if they could meet certain conditions. Money would not be granted for library construction until the citizens could first agree to obtain a plot of land and to promise they would manage the operating and maintenance costs on their own. Since the economy of Dixon was not predicated upon a large enough population to support the cost of construction, nor the ongoing expenses of a library, it initially appeared to be an unfeasible proposition.

The Dixon Women's Improvement Club learned of the endowments for libraries given by Andrew Carnegie that made it possible for qualifying communities to afford new libraries. They strongly felt the need for a library building that would

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Carnegie Library	_
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#### Statement of Significance (continued)

provide education and a level of culture that could not be obtained otherwise. They also were anxious for the opportunity to remake the dilapidated downtown into a reason for civic pride. At their urging J.H. Peterson, state assemblyman and resident of the area, wrote to Andrew Carnegie's private secretary James Bertram in August of 1905. He asked for grant money and explained that the city would like a library added to the high school property to improve those facilities. Since the inhabitants of Dixon would not be able to afford the conditions of the grant, the request was denied. The DWIC were persistent in believing that such a grant would eventually be given to Dixon, although some of the city's elected officials were not so enthusiastic.

J.H. Petersen corresponded with the Governor and was successful in sponsoring a bill that would allow a library to be supported by a High School District rather than just the city alone. Since the population of Dixon was then only about 1000 residents, the city and surrounding areas served by the high school district would join for taxation purposes. The Governor signed the new California State bill in 1909 that permitted the formation of library districts. After 1911, a library could be established within an existing school district. The Dixon Union High School District Library District of Solano County thereby came into existence serving residents in a 196 square mile area of eastern Solano County.

The Board of Trustees that was elected to supervise the administration of the Dixon Union High School District would also be responsible for overseeing the management of the district library. Dixon's solution was eventually copied by more than 15 other small rural communities wanting to obtain libraries for their citizens.

Members of the DWIC pioneered a letter campaign and several letters requesting a library grant were sent to Mr. Carnegie and replied to by James Bertram, his private secretary entrusted with the grant administration duties. As requests for grants became numerous, Bertram had devised a more stringent application process. A questionnaire had to be successfully answered in order to receive the money that was to be used solely for the construction cost of the building. Most importantly, the citizens had to agree to levy a tax of ten percent of the grant to pay for books and operating costs and to contribute an additional amount towards the project. The city had to demonstrate that land had been acquired with proof of deed and building plans approved by James Bertram. Some applicants were turned down because they could not agree to raise the money necessary to keep a library operating. Bertram required that all of the stipulations must be met before further consideration of a potential grant.

The Carnegie Corporation grants given in California ranged in the amounts of \$2500 to \$750,000 usually based upon population size. The amount most commonly given was \$10,000 for communities the size of Dixon, now increased to several thousand people because of the new legislation. Dixon citizens voted to approve the tax obligation in 1911 and began to investigate possible building sites.

Oscar Schultze, a well-to-do merchant and Dixon landowner, possessed valuable property in the center of town with his wife, Caroline. The area where they owned several lots was known as the Ross addition to Dicksonville. The Schultzes donated a plot of land so that the run-down center of town could be cleared of blight and designated for use as a civic park. Since Mrs. Schultze was active in the DWIC, the ownership and management of the park would be given to the club. The women organized a group of volunteers, mostly husbands of the club members, to clean and prepare the future park. They managed to keep the park maintained with their fundraising efforts until 1932 when they turned it over to the City of Dixon.

As the correspondence to Mr. Bertram began in earnest, Caroline Schultz offered an additional portion of land that would provide the building site for the Carnegie Library in perpetuity. The deed was properly signed and recorded in the Solano County Recorder's office on July 1, 1912. The recorded amount of exchange for the lot was \$10 in gold coins. Now that a site for a library had been procured with proof of deed to present to James Bertram, Mrs. R.J. Curry then president of

Carnegie Library

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Name of Property Solano, CA County and State

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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#### Statement of Significance (continued)

the DWIC, wrote a letter of appeal to Mr. Carnegie requesting a \$15,000 grant. This amount was denied since it was arguable if the taxpayers could afford the additional support that the grant required. Several architectural firms had been consulted but the winning bid went to Parker and Kenyon of San Francisco. The architects were required to plan a building that would fit the parameters of both the awarded grant and the design considerations stipulated by Bertram. He favored the one-story above raised basement configuration for its practicality. He reasoned that the large open room of the main floor would allow natural light to enter from all sides providing a workable full basement level. The plans were drawn and submitted for review but when the design was sent to Mr. Bertram for approval, the architects had to modify and make substitutions of materials in order for the building to be completed within the promised \$10,000 grant. Parker and Kenyon had designed the cornices to be made of iron and the interior was to have fancy crown molding at the ceilings. Since the metal and fancy trim components drove up the costs, they were forced to use wood for the cornice and completely leave off interior doo-dads. After lengthy negotiation, the contracting firm of Brady and Fischer proposed the lowest bid for their services: \$9395 payable in gold coins.

Construction of the building then commenced and was completed in 1912. Delighted town citizens enjoyed a much-anticipated celebration in February of 1913 to officially dedicate the Dixon Carnegie Library. The festivities were arranged by the Women's Improvement Club and held on a Thursday evening. Prominent men from Sacramento were invited to be present and give addresses but only one, a Mr. Ed. Leeke, was able to attend. The flustered ladies pressed the Reverend Lynd into service who explained the situation to the audience. Mr. Leeke then made "a very pleasing address" and complimented the good work done by Women's Clubs in Dixon and elsewhere and of the "splendid progressive spirit that now prevails." Rev. W.E. Story, Rev. G. Derby, Mrs. R.J. Curry, Mrs. W.H. Garnett, E.D. Lebe and W.J. Weyand also gave speeches. Entertainment was provided by the Dixon Band who "contributed to the pleasure of the evening with several fine selections." A plaque with the names of the library district's first Board of Trustees and Mrs. O.C. Schultz was presented to commemorate the dedication day.

The Dixon Historical Society initiated a survey of the old residential and commercial districts of the city to evaluate the possibility of historical significance on a national level in 1979. A historic resources inventory was partially completed by the Vacaville Inventory organization. Through the years many of the surveyed buildings had undergone major changes to their original architecture and the goal of pursuing a registered historical district was abandoned.

Dr. Verl Knight, a local dentist and member of the Library Board, was passionate about keeping the Carnegie from deteriorating. Flyers were handed out through town that declared, "Save the Library!" Dr. Knight was instrumental in proposing the 1987 bond measure that would raise the funds to pay for complete restoration of the Carnegie. He envisioned making the whole building as beautiful as when first built. The funds would be utilized for interior/exterior renovation, wheel chair accessible ramps at the entrance and to make the basement again usable for the public. He apparently didn't have enough support for his idea because eventually much of the bond dunds were used to build a new addition rather than spend it on restoration of the Carnegie.

In 1988, the Dixon Unified School District Board of Education and the Dixon Library Commission partnered and requested the Dixon City Council to officially designate the 1912 Carnegie as a building of historical significance. A packet containing copies of historical records and documents verifying the origination of the Carnegie was submitted to the City of Dixon by J.Gerry Laird, Superintendent of Schools. This was one year prior to the completion of the 1989 addition to the building that created the new main entrance on First Street.

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Carnegie Library
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#### Statement of Significance (continued)

Two years after the 1989 addition and 1990 renovations to the library were finished, a re-dedication ceremony was held April 25, 1992 in the original Carnegie building. All of the past librarians were honored beginning with the first one appointed in 1912, Mrs. Lillian Brey Hill.

The special guest speaker was David Schultze, the great grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar C. Schultze who donated the library building lot. He also happens to be the great grandson of Mrs. R.J. Currey who wrote the letter to Andrew Carnegie in 1911 on behalf of the Women's Improvement Club. He made a humorous speech involving stories of his family history and its vital ties to the history of Dixon and the Dixon Carnegie Library. At the end of his speech he unveiled a marble plaque with the names of the re-dedication committee: Verl Knight, J. Batchelor, W. O' Neill, J.G. Laird, Sister Lisa Siefert, P. deTar, N.A. Rotteveel, M. Lytle and Marilyn Costamagna, then librarian.

Citizens of Dixon remained dedicated to the cause of historic preservation and in 2003 an intensive survey was conducted by a professional evaluator, Donald S. Napoli from Sacramento. A Primary Record is filed in the State of California Resources Agency stating that the Dixon Carnegie Library appears eligible for listing on the National Register.

The community continues to utilize the Dixon Carnegie Library in its original capacity and function as a free public library to the present day. It has been the main source for information and library services in the city since its first opening. The library's archive collection offers support on a regular basis to genealogists and other researchers who inquire about viewing the historic photographs and documents. Special events funded by the library, including the popular Summer Reading Program for children, serve as important social affairs for the City of Dixon. Several city events take place outdoors throughout the year in the adjacent Women's Improvement Club Park. The Dixon Chamber of Commerce and the Dixon Downtown Business Association both plan seasonal festivities that include the use of the library. The active volunteer group, Friends of the Library conducts their book sales at some of these special events; the income from "Friends" sales is donated to benefit the library. Today, the Dixon Carnegie Library functions not only to provide education, social and cultural development, it is a treasured historical resource in its own right for the people of Dixon, giving them a strengthening connection to their past accomplishments and commitment.

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Dixon Carnegie Library
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Solano County, CA
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Jones, Theodore. Carnegie Libraries Across America: A Public Legacy. NY: John Wiley & Sons, 1997.

Edge, Laura B. Andrew Carnegie: Industrial Philanthropist. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Company, 2004.

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#### Telephone Interview:

Wes O'Neill, former Dixon Library Commissioner. 29 May 2010. 11:30 a.m. Grace O'Neill, Women's Improvement Club member since 1956. 29 May 2010. 1:00 p.m.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Dixon Carnegie Library
Name of Property
Solano County, CA
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

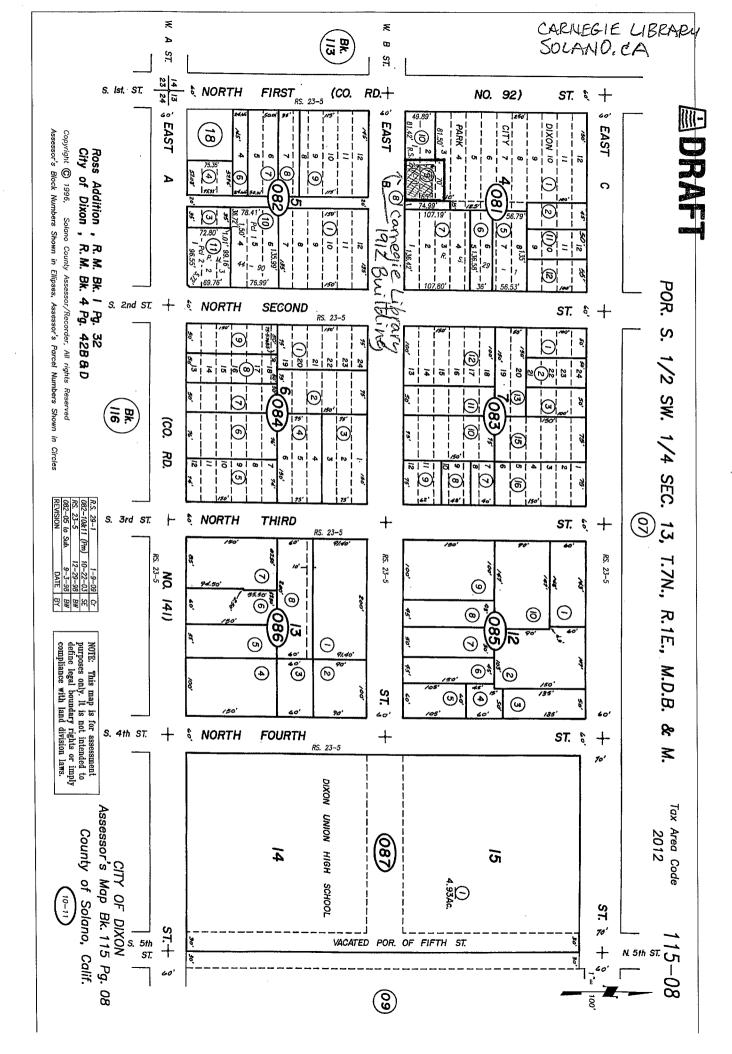
The Solano County Assessor/Recorder's department documents the negotiation between Mrs. Caroline Schultze and the Dixon Union High School Library District and notarized by R.J. Currey on May 27, 1912. The official description of the donated lot is described in detail:

Part of Lots One, Two and Three of the West half of Block Four in Ross' Addition to Dicksonville, according to the map of said Addition filed in the office of the Recorder of Solano County, California, in Book One of Maps, at page thirty-two;

Beginning at the South-east corner of said Lot One, being 150 feet West of the South-east corner of said Block Four, thence along the East line of said Lots One, Two and Three of said West half of Block Four, North Sixty-five feet, thence parallel with B Street West Sixty feet, thence parallel with the East line of said Lots One, Two and Three, South Sixty-five feet, and thence along the North line of B Street East Sixty feet to the place of beginning.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The accompanying Solano County Assessor's parcel maps for the City of Dixon illustrates the site area: Book 15-Page 8. Also see detail of parcel on accompanying map: Block 4 Ross Addition to Dixon.



CARNEGIE LIBRARY SOLANO, CA

### BLOCK 4

# ROSS ADD. TO DIXON

SCALE I" = 100'

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"C"

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FIRST

STREET

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"B"

STREET

SOLARO COUNTY ATTERDAND COMPRESS 11 20 CM

SECOND

<b>National</b>	Register	r of	<b>Historic</b>	<b>Places</b>
Continua	ation She	et		

Carnegie Library	
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			,	

### Additional Documentation Photographs

Name of Property:

Carnegie Library

City: County: Dixon

Photographer:

Solano

Date Photographed: (1-18)

Susan B. Werrin April, May 2010

Historical Photos: (19-25)

Photographer and Dates Unknown

#### Descriptions of Photos: (1-25)

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0001
Front facade south elevation, camera facing north

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0002
Detail entrance, camera facing north

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0003

Front view showing placement of quatrefoil windows, camera facing northwest

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0004

South elevation front three-part window, camera facing north

CA SolanoCounty CarnegieLibrary 0005

Southwest corner (at adjacent old P.O. building) looking up to cornice, camera facing north

CA\_SolanoCounty CarnegieLibrary 0006

Looking down to basement door under front steps, camera facing east

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0007

Date of building completion inscribed on southwest corner of building, camera facing north

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary 0008

Plaque at right of main entrance southeast front of building, camera facing north

CA SolanoCounty CarnegieLibrary 0009

East elevation showing 1957 shed-roof addition, camera facing northwest

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0010

Looking up to northeast cornice with roof line of shed-roof, camera facing southwest

CA SolanoCounty CarnegieLibrary 0011

Rear of 1957 addition attached to 1989 wing at north wall of Carnegie, camera facing southwest

CA\_SolanoCounty CarnegieLibrary 0012

Interior of Carnegie (main floor), camera looking east

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One of two glass-front cabinets containing old books in basement, basement window visible at right, camera facing northeast

Additional Documentation
Descriptions of Photos: (cont.)

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0013
Looking down from Carnegie into 1957 addition (children's library) near east wall, camera facing north

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0014
Looking down into northwest area of 1989 addition near west wall, camera facing north

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0015
Looking up steps into Carnegie from 1989 addition, camera facing south

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0016
Basement level with view of lobby and furnace room, camera facing northeast

CA SolanoCounty CarnegieLibrary 0017

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0018
Original oil-burning furnace (unused) in basement boiler room

Historical Photographs: Courtesy of the Dixon Public Library Archives Collection Photographer and dates unknown

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0019
Dixon Women's Improvement Club on Carnegie steps, circa 1920

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0020 Interior view with librarians, circa 1915

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0021 South wall facade front

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0022 Southeast corner front

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0023
Front of building showing globe-lamps at entrance, circa 1930's

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0024 South wall facade, circa 1940's

CA\_SolanoCounty\_CarnegieLibrary\_0025 South wall facade, circa 1980's